



October 19th, 2020 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing

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The meeting summary was prepared to reflect the residents' input. Town staff will prepare responses to the questions and include them in a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document. Other stakeholders may also have interest in the responses. Staff will post the FAQ document on the project website.

Date and Location

4:00 P.M. – 5:45 P.M., on site neighborhood meeting on Ohlone Court.

Attendance

Approximately 18 Ohlone Ct. neighborhood residents attended. The Los Gatos Glen Homeowners Association sent a comment letter to the Town Council regarding a related item on the September 1st agenda (Attachment 1).

Four Parks and Public Works staff, and one Consultant attended. Staff included; Ying Smith: Transportation & Mobility Manager, WooJae Kim: Town Engineer, Michelle Quinney: Special Projects Manager, Savannah Van Akin: Transportation Intern. Jaggi Bhandal represented BKF, the Town's Engineering Consultant for the Feasibility Study.

How was it Advertised

- An initial email was sent to the Los Gatos Glen Homeowners Association and Ohlone Court Neighbors on September 23rd to inquire about an onsite neighborhood meeting (Attachment 2).
- Staff began the internal coordination process for the meeting on October 1st.
- On Friday October 9th, an email to the Los Gatos Glen Homeowners Association and Neighbors was sent with a link to a SurveyMonkey poll to help identify a time that would work for the majority of neighborhood residents.
- On October 15th, door hanging notifications (Attachment 3) were distributed to each property within the Ohlone Ct. Neighborhood.
- An email was also sent to the Los Gatos Glen Homeowners Association and Ohlone Court Neighbors with meeting date, time, and details on October 15th (Attachment 2).

Presentation and Materials

- The project team presented the project background and alternatives, explained the September 1st Town Council decision, and provided an overview of the project schedule, cost and funding (Attachments 4 and 5).
- Two exhibits (Attachment 5) showing the location and anticipated height of the west approach were offered at the start of the meeting to supplement the presentation.





- The attendees were invited to participate in providing feedback and asking questions on needs and concerns.
- The group walked to neighbors' backyards at 139 and 140 Ohlone Court to understand the view from their properties. Staff took pictures to show the view looking north from the backyard, ground level (Attachment 6).
- The group also walked down to Blossom Hill Road to address additional questions. Staff explained the anticipated height of the west approach in relationship to the existing BHR grade.

Themes of the Night

1. Caltrans Coordination
2. Project Cost, Purpose and Need
3. Neighborhood Impacts
4. Travel Demand and Patterns
5. Potential Environmental Impacts
6. Design Detail
7. Future Communication with Town Staff

Although the information helped some residents, the majority of attendees opposed the BPOC at Blossom Hill Road, insisting that the Town actively and aggressively pursue an option for Caltrans to reconstruct the existing Blossom Hill Road vehicular bridge over Hwy 17 due to its substandard conditions. Neighbors expressed appreciation that the first consideration in this project is to improve safety of the students crossing the bridge when they bike or walk to school. However, they also shared concerns about the potential construction impacts, conflicts at the Blossom Hill Road/Roberts Road East intersection, existing traffic and noise, existing school traffic impacts at this neighborhood, and the overall project decision-making process.

Comments and Questions Received

A. Design Detail of the Preferred BPOC Alternative

- Where does the bridge end?
- Will there be a fence? What will that look like?
- How high is the BPOC over the freeway? How high is it above the grade to the west of the freeway?
- How will this impact the view from my backyard?

B. Blossom Hill Road Reconstruction

- Why not wait for Caltrans?
- Is there anything in writing that shows you asked Caltrans?
- Can you aggressively go after and document the communication between Caltrans?
- The original bridge is the problem, based on traffic that occurs at this location.
- We want a comprehensive fix.
- Expressed frustration that staff didn't work aggressively to pressure Caltrans to reconstruct the existing bridge.
- We don't believe the staff conclusion that BHR reconstruction is a long-term project that the Town has little control over.





C. Potential Construction Impacts

- Questions about the construction time frame and duration were raised.
- We have had to live through the bridge being fixed the first time it was hit; we do not want to live through more constructions than we have to.

D. Conflicts at the Blossom Hill Road/Roberts Road West Intersection

- There is a blind corner on Roberts Road West.
- The design will need to consider safety at Roberts Road West intersection.
- There are already kids who cross at this intersection on a red light. Making a right turn at this location is always difficult at Roberts Road West onto Blossom Hill Road.
- I worry about the continuity between the end of the bridge at Roberts Road West and the creek connection. How can we make this safer?
- If the BPOC generates more bike and pedestrian traffic, how will you address the increased traffic going on to Roberts Road West to the Los Gatos creek connection?

E. Existing Traffic and Noise

- Noise level will need to be addressed throughout the development process.
- We are frustrated with the traffic and noise that the existing narrow bridge causes. We want to know what can be done.
- Frustration about the traffic congestion at the BHR/Roberts Road East intersection near Fisher.

F. Existing School Traffic Impacts at this Neighborhood

- Parents often drop their kids off in our neighborhood and along Roberts Road West because they don't want to get stuck in the traffic to cross the bridge. The bridge is too narrow.
- This is why there are so many students crossing the bridge in the mornings and afternoons, it is not because they live in that direction. It is because parents wait to pick them up and drop them off along Roberts Road West.
- Do you have information on how many people use the bridge now? Do you know how many students were dropped off in our neighborhood and walk across the bridge?

G. Project Purpose and Need

- This project is emphasizing this particular connection, however there are many locations throughout town that do not have sidewalks and biking infrastructure. Why are we putting our time and energy into this project when there are other areas that need help?
- This project seems oversized and out of context for this location. Why is this size appropriate for the amount of people it will serve?

H. Overall Project Decision-Making Process and Community Engagement

- Does it affect Serria ct.? Have they been notified?
- You made that recommendation even though you knew we were not happy with it?
- Can we have regular check ins with staff about the project process?
- Can we have a quarterly email from staff to the neighborhood to address project updates?





- We are all smart people but operating the government system can be difficult. What can you do to make it easier for us to get involved?
- The Council members should also consider visiting the neighborhood before making any decisions on our behalf.
- We have not seen our input reflected in writing.
- When will you have the meeting notes available?
- It is so difficult to get information from the project website. Staff should come to our neighborhood regularly to provide update.
- You should have reached out and had this conversation before the September 1st meeting.
- Requested staff to make a different recommendation to the Town Council. Instead of building the BPOC, the recommendation should instead say reconstruct the existing bridge.
- Questioned if the Consultant has a financial interest in making the recommendation.

I. Project Cost, Funding and Schedule

- Wouldn't the costs from two projects end up more expensive than the cost of one project?
- How much will this project cost?
- How much would the Caltrans reconstruction cost?
- How long will each phase be?
- How long until construction begins?
- How long will construction last?

J. Environmental Impacts

- Have you done soil testing?
- City mandated trees are located in the benefit zone so you cannot see our houses and to help with the noise. How many trees will need to be removed?
- Will an EIR be needed? Will this project qualify for an exemption under CEQA?

Attachments with Additional Information

1. [Original Los Gatos Glen HOA Letter](#)
2. [Emails to Ohlone Ct. Residents & Los Gatos Glen HOA](#)
3. [Meeting Door Hanger Notification](#)
4. [Meeting Presentation Video](#)
5. [Meeting Handouts](#)
6. [Photos of View from Ohlone Court Properties](#)

